

Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



R-19-J

Dear Senator Lugar:

Your letter of April 10, 2001 to Administrator Christine Whitman has been referred to me for reply. Thank you very much for your interest in the Superfund program and the Himco Superfund site located in the City of Elkhart. I've read the March 1, 2001 letter from the City of Elkhart that you enclosed and I want to assure you that we support the communities goal to complete the clean up work at the Himco Superfund Site and, in doing so, provide an opportunity for community driven redevelopment of the Himco property.

My staff participated in a meeting with the City of Elkhart on February 7, 2001 and, based on that meeting, they are attempting to work towards clean up and redevelopment. These efforts include a commitment by United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) staff to increased communications between the City of Elkhart and the U. S. EPA regarding the project status. Currently, the U. S. EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management are in the process of reviewing the final draft of the Supplemental Field Investigation/Risk Assessment for the Construction Debris Area, the Supplemental Ground Water Investigation of the residential area, and the most recent Soil Gas Investigation. As the final documents are being written, we are concurrently evaluating the 1993 Record of Decision (ROD) and have initiated informal talks with Bayer, the lead responsible party, regarding changes to the decision that will, hopefully, be better received and will accommodate the City of Elkhart's plans for redevelopment. We anticipate a decision document, amending the 1993 ROD, will be drafted shortly. In addition, we hope to work with the City of Elkhart regarding site ownership, perspective purchaser agreements and other brownfields tools that might be useful in encouraging redevelopment.

We recognize the impact the on-going clean up work has on the City of Elkhart's economy and the quality of life of its residents and are attempting to better direct our efforts to minimize these impacts. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me at (312) 886-3000. In addition, the Remedial Project Manager, Gwendolyn Massenburg, can also respond to questions regarding this project. She can be reached at (312)886-0983.

Sincerely yours,

David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

mark envelope attention: Bob Healy